

that it may increase our knowledge of the difficult subject of the physiology of bladder control and its relation to the pathology of incontinence of urine.

#### SUMMARY.

Unfixed bladders from 350 post-mortems have been studied from a mechanical point of view in a special machine.

In these bladders it has been found that lifting the bladder neck region without squeezing it causes the outlet to close and the bladder to hold very high pressures without any leakage occurring.

In the living human subject upward pressure on the perineal and anal regions stops the flow of urine and when the flow is stopped by this method the bladder outlet closes.

It has been found possible to maintain this upward pressure on the perineum by an appliance and to bring relief to patients with certain types of incontinence of urine.

I am extremely grateful to Professor Biggart for permission to examine the post-mortem bladders; to all those who performed the post-mortems for their very great kindness and skill in removing the bladders by a rather difficult dissection, and for allowing me to do so many dissections of the pelvic floor; to the physicians and surgeons of various hospitals who gave me the opportunity of seeing suitable patients; to Professor Pritchard, and all the staff of the Anatomy Department of Queen's University for criticism and practical help; and to a succession of resident pupils at the Belfast City Hospital for their invaluable assistance in making the appliances.

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#### REVIEW

THE NUFFIELD FOUNDATION: REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31ST MARCH, 1959. (Pp. xii+201). Oxford: The University Press, 1959.

THE grant allocations made by the Nuffield Foundation in the year 1958-59 for the first time exceeded £1,000,000. Roughly a quarter of this was spent in the Commonwealth—mostly in Africa—and the rest was spent at home on scientific, medical and social projects, and on fellowships.

This is a useful review of work in many fields of science and medicine. The Foundation continues its major interest in fundamental research in biology. In medicine studies range from one by thirty general practitioners on the distribution of mental illness in the community to studies of 'slipped disk' as a result of ageing in cats, and in social research one grant is to help to provide coffee bars and dance floors for young people in the new towns. This is a record of wide ranging and imaginative stewardship.